

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 594

By Casada

A RESOLUTION recognizing Blue Grass Farm and Bond Farm,
Tennessee Century Farms owned by Charles
and Carol Bond.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should honor and recognize those exceptional farming families who, through their dedication to the ancient and esteemed traditions of agriculture, have made significant contributions to their respective communities and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Bond family of Williamson County certainly ranks among those estimable Tennessee farming families; both Blue Grass Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1825, and Bond Farm, owned and operated by the family since 1870, have been designated Tennessee Century Farms in recognition of their long and illustrious history; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Century Farms Program recognizes those families who have owned and farmed the same land for over a century, and also documents and interprets the State's history and culture of farming; and

WHEREAS, Blue Grass Farm was established by John B. and Elizabeth Bryan Bond in 1825; during their day, the 715-acre farm yielded tobacco, sheep, and other subsistence crops; and

WHEREAS, a significant contributor to the cattle breeding industry for 60 years, Blue Grass Farm is located in eastern Williamson County where John Bond had operated a blacksmith shop in the community as early as 1797; and

WHEREAS, John and Elizabeth were the parents of ten children, and their son, Cicero Columbus Bond, inherited the farm in 1848; a magistrate representing the 12th District, Cicero was a profitable farmer of tobacco, corn, wheat, and livestock; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War and Reconstruction era devastated his operations, and Cicero “was forced to move from the home place during Reconstruction to one log room; after years of hard work, he was able to recoup his resources, [and] this log room is the nucleus of the present home”; and

WHEREAS, wed to the former Rachel Blythe, Cicero Columbus Bond fathered four children, and in 1909, his son, James William Bond, obtained the farm; and

WHEREAS, James W. and Leo G. Bond, the great-grandsons of the founders, received title to the family landholdings in 1953, and sixteen years later, Charles and Dan Bond acquired 420 acres of the original farm; and

WHEREAS, today, the Bond brothers manage 870 acres, operate a grade A dairy, and raise tobacco and beef cattle; in 1984, Charles and Dan received a certificate from the American Polled Hereford Association for 64 years of continual breeding of Polled Hereford cattle; and

WHEREAS, Charles Bond and his wife, Carol, are also the owners of the Bethesda community’s Bond Farm, which was founded by P.D. Scales in 1870; and

WHEREAS, the farm originally consisted of 80 acres, but Mr. Scales added 20 more acres in 1897 for \$200; the deed for the acreage describes the land as being bordered by Rutherford Creek that “meanders to the old meeting house,” and the farm also contains a spring, always so important to farms for both livestock and people; and

WHEREAS, P. D. Scales and his wife, Mary, were the parents of Ella, Frank, and Marion, and together the family raised beef and dairy cattle, chickens, and hogs, as well as a variety of vegetables; and

WHEREAS, Ella Scales Grigsby became the second owner of the farm in 1918, when she purchased her siblings’ shares of the land; she and her husband, Charles Grigsby, had a large family, including Ethel, Leo, Scales, Charles, Maria, Ella Frances, Catherine, and Harry, and they raised hay, cows, tobacco, pigs, and beef; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Leo and her husband, James Bond, acquired 50 acres of the family farm where they raised hay and cattle and three children, James, Charles, and Dan; Leo became the sole owner of the farm after her husband, James, died in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Leo sold 19 acres of land to her son and his wife, Charles and Carol Allen Bond, in 1974; after Leo passed away in 1998, Charles and Carol received the remaining 31 acres of land from her estate; and

WHEREAS, Charles and Carol Bond continue to live on the land first purchased by his great-grandfather more than 130 years ago; today, Charles and their sons, Charles and Robert, raise beef cattle and hay on Bond Farm; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State, the strength of its communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people such as the members of the Bond family, who have demonstrated a deep respect for tradition and hard work and a love for the land; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate owners Charles and Carol Bond, whose Blue Grass Farm and Bond Farm have been designated Tennessee Century Farms, commend Mr. and Mrs. Bond and their family for their dedication to agriculture, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.